

Grades 6-8

History Detectives “Bob Dylan’s Guitar”

Elyse Luray and Wes Cowan investigate whether they have found rock's Holy Grail, the long-lost electric Fender Stratocaster Bob Dylan plugged in at the '65 Newport Folk Festival, changing rock 'n' roll forever. Tukufu Zuberi tracks down some autographs allegedly signed for two brothers in Miami Beach during the Beatles' legendary 1964 "British Invasion" tour of the United States. Finally, Gwendolyn Wright investigates a \$5 thrift store find and unearths a little-known artistic side of musical iconoclast Frank Zappa.

After watching this episode, choose from the following questions and/or tasks to extend your learning

- When Bob Dylan plugged in at the Newport Folk Festival in 1965 what happened?
 - What was different about this performance from performances in the past?
 - Why was Bob Dylan “booed”?
 - Why did Bob Dylan return with an acoustic guitar”? In that moment what was the significance of the words sung, “It’s all over now, baby blue...”
 - Why was the Beatles tour in America, called the “British Invasion”?
 - How did brothers, Mike and Jimmy, acquire the autographs from the band members of the Beatles?
 - Which band member signed a room service menu?
 - If authenticated, how much can these autographs be worth?
 - Frank Zappa was known as a composer, musician, and band leader, what was his other hidden talent?
 - Who found evidence of Frank Zappa’s hidden talent and where?
 - How did they discover this work was done by Frank Zappa, the musician?
 - Where did Frank Zappa learn this other talent?
 - What is the connection between being a musician and an artist?
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- How does music reflect what is going on in the world at the time?
 - How does music influence others?
 - What is your favorite song and why? Examine the lyrics (words of the song) and figure out what the songwriter might have been trying to convey. What about the mood created with the music appeals to you?

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- Make a timeline between the music of Bob Dylan, the Beatles and Frank Zappa with the news and politics of their time.
 - Create a chronological timeline of the events that the History Detective shares.
 - Can you add other events to this timeline (family events, local events)?
 - If you have created other timelines, where do you see similarities? Where do you see large gaps of time?
- Write a song to reflect growing up in the digital age.
- Draw an album cover that reflects your song.
- Record yourself singing a song and listen to it.
- Make a list of songs that you listen to and determine what message these songs are sending to listeners.
- What types of changes have happened in the music business since the days of Dylan, the Beatles and Zappa?
- Is it easier or more difficult to become successful in the music business today? Why?
- How do new artists promote their music now?
- Songwriting is a profession that requires creativity, dedication, enthusiasm and a clear understanding of human emotions. Careers in songwriting include composer, jingle writer, lyricist, performing songwriter and song or music producer. Try your hand at writing a song. Put your words to a melody that already exists or make up one of your own.